

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 438 - SB 1250

March 19, 2017

SUMMARY OF BILL: Creates the State Energy Policy Council within the Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to advise and make recommendations to the Governor and to the General Assembly on: identifying all state energy resources to ensure a secure, stable, and more predictable energy supply; managing the use of energy resources; and increasing domestic energy exploration, development, and production within the state and region, for promoting economic growth and job creation while ensuring the protection and preservation of the state's natural resources, cultural heritage, and quality of life.

Requires the council to compile an annual report assessing the energy sector in this state, and develop an ongoing comprehensive state energy policy plan to achieve maximum effective management and use of present and future sources of energy. Authorizes the policy to include energy efficiency, renewable and alternative sources of energy, research and development into alternative energy technologies, and improvements to the state's energy infrastructure and energy economy, including smart grid and domestic energy resources to include natural gas, coal, hydroelectric power, solar, wind, nuclear energy, and biomass. Requires the creation of an annual energy policy plan that recommends necessary energy legislation to the Governor and to the General Assembly, the promulgation of necessary rules to regulatory boards charged with administering Title 68 of Tennessee Code Annotated, and the implementation and modifications of energy policy, plans, and programs as the council considers necessary.

Requires powers, duties, and functions of the council to be as prescribed by the TDEC with direct input from the Office of Energy Programs (OEP). Requires the council to serve as the central energy policy planning body of the state and communicate and cooperate with federal, state, regional, and local bodies and agencies for the purpose of affecting a coordinated energy policy. Establishes that the council will be comprised of 13 non-legislative members. Requires that members be reimbursed for travel and other necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official duties in accordance with the state comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the commissioner of Finance and Administration and approved by the Attorney General and Reporter. Requires the council to adopt and implement a conflict of interest policy. Requires the council to meet quarterly, and the members to be physically present at a minimum of two quarterly meetings each calendar year. Requires the council to compile, compose, publish, and transmit two annual comprehensive reports to the Governor and the Speakers of the Senate and House of Representatives: an annual assessment of the state's energy sector that will be facilitated by the Baker Center for Public Policy; and a report to create a comprehensive state energy policy plan. Creates a special account in the State Treasury to be known as the Energy Policy Development Resources Fund. Requires a grant to be disbursed from the Fund in an annual amount of \$50,000. States the legislative intent that an annual amount be appropriated each fiscal year in the general appropriations act for awarding a grant. Adds the council to the

sunset cycle provisions under the *Tennessee Governmental Entity Review Law*, thereby creating a termination date for the council of June 30, 2019.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$233,300

Assumptions:

- The UT Baker Center of Public Policy will facilitate the annual assessment of the state's energy sector as a result of the proposed legislation.
- According to TDEC, one energy policy director and one executive administrative assistant 3 position will be required to accomplish administrative and programmatic requirements of the proposed legislation.
- The recurring increase in state expenditures for the two positions is estimated to be \$173,042 (\$129,504 salary + \$35,338 benefits + \$8,200 travel, training, computer, supplies).
- The proposed legislation requires the 13 council members to be physically present for at least two of four quarterly meetings each year.
- Based on the information provided by TDEC, it is estimated that one council meeting in which all members attend would result in a cost of \$5,115.90 for travel, per diem and other related costs.
- Assuming that 11 of the 13 council members attended a minimum of two meetings each year, the recurring increase in state expenditures for travel and related costs is estimated to exceed \$10,232 (\$5,115.90 per diem x 2 meetings).
- It is estimated that an additional recurring appropriation of \$50,000 would be required for grants in order to accomplish the requirements of the proposed legislation.
- It is assumed that recurring appropriations from the General Fund will be required to effectuate the purpose of this legislation.
- The recurring increase in state expenditures from the General Fund is estimated to exceed \$233,274 (\$173,042 + \$10,232 + \$50,000).
- The Comptroller of the Treasury, the Division of Audit, will accommodate any additional auditing responsibilities as a result of the addition of the council to the statutory sunset provisions utilizing existing resources without an increased appropriation or reduced reversion.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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